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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

MISSISSAUGA | BRAMPTON | CALEDON

Jan. 28, 2021

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Art orgs unveil
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exhibitions



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Union urges action after Canada Post COVID casualty



by Clover Sterling

Packages pass through a conveyor line at a Canada Post sorting facility, as seen in an undated photo. The postal service confirmed Wednesday evening that an employee had died from COVID-19, who was a man in his 60s who worked as part of a night shift.

A Canada Post employee has died from COVID-19, the postal service confirmed Wednesday evening.

The employee, a worker in his 60s who worked night shifts at the Gateway East facility on Dixie Road in Mississauga, last reported to work on Jan. 18 and was later confirmed to have the virus, though he was not part of the 350 workers who were ordered to quarantine after an outbreak at the facility, company spokesperson Phil Legault said.

"We offer our deepest

sympathies to the family as they mourn the lost and respect their privacy during this difficult time," said Legault.

"We are focused on supporting our employees who have lost a colleague while ensuring we continue to stringently follow the guidance and direction from Peel Public Health."

As reported last week, numerous employees were sent home at the Dixie Facility after 121 employees tested positive for the virus. 350 workers at the facility, who all worked on the same shift

at the site, were ordered into self-isolation for 14 days as a precautionary measure.

It was not known as of press time whether the employee who died had contact with any of the employees ordered into isolation, though a statement from Canada Post said he was not part of the employees ordered to stay home, as he had been isolating prior to the outbreak.

Shipping delays may occur, the postal service said late Wednesday.

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

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Two under arrest in connection with Brampton shooting

A pair of suspects have been arrested in connection with a shooting that occurred last summer, 22 Division has revealed.

22 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau said Monday that the two suspects were charged with multiple offences, including attempted murder aggra-

vated assault, in connection with an incident that took place on Aug. 22, 2020 in the Hale and Glidden Road area in Brampton, when a 19 year-old victim was shot.

The suspects fled in a vehicle, while the victim was rushed to a trauma centre.

Earlier this month, two men were arrested in

connection with the shooting, including 31 year-old Neil Wilson, of Brampton, and 33 year-old Winward Saunders, of Toronto, the latter of whom had a conviction from a previous firearms-related offence.

Both men appeared in court to answer to the charges on Jan. 23.



Town stresses unity during ROMA conference

Delegates from across the province converged virtually for sessions with key cabinet ministers and political leaders during the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, which took place earlier this week.

Held virtually for the first time this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event attracted hundreds of delegates that participated in breakout meetings with municipal leaders and key politicians to make their views on rural issues known, including the Town of Caledon, which sent a delegation to emphasize the value of

preservign employment lands and stressing road safety in the local area, among other initiatives.

Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson, who is the current chair of the conference, said that the Town would be playing a leading role in the conference this year.

"This is a great opportunity for Caledon to make our voice heard," said Thompson. "Despite the pandemic, we are continuing to work on behalf of the people of Caledon. Whether it's better internet, safer roads, more public transit or support for agriculture, this is where a lot of the hard work

gets done to make change happen."

Premier Doug Ford and Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark also spoke at the conference, and told participants that the province would continue to support farmers and agricultural producers throughout the province for their efforts during the pandemic.

"The past year has not been easy for anyone, and there are difficult days ahead... but our government will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all of you (and) we must continue to be nimble and innovative as we move forward," said Clark.

Brampton Centre MP out amid concerns over statements

by Surjit Singh Flora

Brampton Centre MP Ramesh Sangha has been expelled from the Liberal Caucus.

Sangha, a lawyer by profession, was first elected Liberal MP in 2015. He has in the past accused the Liberal Party of patronizing Sikh separatists.

Sangha was ousted from the caucus Monday, after concerns about his statements were brought to the attention of Liberal Whip Mark Holland and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Citing that "necessary steps were taken," Holland said in an email statement that Sangha was removed in regards to his comments, citing "dangerous

and unfounded rhetoric about Parliamentarians or other Canadians."

In a recent interview with Y Media, Sangha leveled serious allegations against now ex-Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains, who stepped back from his role earlier this month.

While Bains said the reason for leaving politics was to spend more time with his family, Sangha expressed surprise at Bains' decision and said neither he nor the community was digesting it.

At the same time, talking about Bains' background, Sangha claimed that when someone is "an extremist and a

Khalistani, is he fit to be a minister?"

He said that there were some reasons why Bains had to resign from his ministry, suggesting ulterior motives or collusion.

Even in the past, Sangha accused his party of backing the Khalistanis.

In 2019, Sangha accused the Liberal government of "pandering" to Sikh separatists in a way that threatened to derail Canada's relationship with India.

For his part, Sangha said in an interview Wednesday with The Hill Times that his comments were taken out of

context, and that he was only informed of the decision Monday afternoon during a Zoom meeting with Trudeau, who was allegedly joined by party president Suzanne Cowan and Holland, though other sources allege that other members of the Liberal leadership were also

present during the call.

"Small points have been taken out of the whole context," Sangha told The Hill Times on Wednesday. "Whichever they feel this is good for them, they are considering that. Rest, they left out."



STAY IN TOUCH

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PEEL
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Peel ramps up vaccination schedule as province touts milestone

As Peel Region pushes for an acceleration of vaccinations throughout key sites, the province announced Tuesday that it had completed the first round of vaccinations at LTC homes throughout the region and surrounding areas.

Premier Doug Ford said Tuesday that Peel was one of four regions, along with Toronto, York and Windsor-Essex, to finish the first round of vaccinations on residents — as part of a push to target regions with the highest COVID-19 transmission rates in the province.

"We are making steady progress, but we will not rest until the residents and staff of every long-term

care home and all Ontarians have had the opportunity to get a vaccine," Ford said during a news conference. "Only then will we be able to get our lives back and return to normal."

The news comes as public health officials in Peel push for a community mass vaccination plan, with a proposal outlining key metrics and guidelines being approved Wednesday.

Peel's vaccination plan is aimed at getting community clinics up and running as soon as possible, with two clinics (located at Region of Peel facilities at 7120 Hurontario Street and 10 Peel Centre Drive) targeted to open early next month.

Three additional

locations, including Century Gardens Community Centre, Caledon East Community Complex and River Grove Community Centre are targeted to open this spring.

"(This) is a testament to the hard work and collaboration of our team with our many partners, all while continuing to support our broader pandemic response to help keep people safe," the region said in a statement last week.

As of Tuesday, 83,000 LTC residents, staff members and caregivers had been vaccinated with the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, though more work remains to stop community spread, said the

province's long-term care minister.

"We must remember that our long-term care homes are still at risk from community spread... it's important that all of us continue to stay home as much as possible and follow the public health measures so we can stay safe and save lives," said Minister Merilee Fullerton.

The province has also run into snags securing additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine, as the federal government revealed on Jan. 15 that production at the drugmaker's European production facility had been delayed, and that shipments of the vaccine would be reduced through February.

More must be done to protect the province's most vulnerable residents, representatives of the official opposition said last week.

"People are doing everything they can to stay home and keep people safe — but Peel families, including all the essential workers that live here — won't be able to solve this problem without more help," said Brampton North NDP MPP Kevin Yarde. "(The Premier) must provide the region with the vaccines we need to meet the demands of our population, and he needs to provide paid sick days, on-site workplace testing, and more isolation centres."

Action needed for mass testing of workers: Union

Continued from Pg 1

Last year, the facility faced a similar outbreak, when eight employees were confirmed to have the virus in Apr. 2020, prompting "precautionary deep cleaning" of

the facility, which employs more than 3,500 workers.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers is now demanding action and seeking answers from the government. The national presi-

dent of the union, Jan Simpson is calling for an investigation, stating that its workers are "worried and tired."

"Let these workers understand and know what is causing the out-

break at their workplace," said Simpson. "We need to let Canada Post, (Peel) Public Health and the government know that they need to prioritize (postal workers) on the vaccine list after their healthcare workers."

Peel's chief medical officer, Dr. Lawrence Loh, said Wednesday during a press conference that while he is not at liberty to discuss the employee's cause of death or nature of the case, he emphasized that Canada Post is working

with Peel Public Health to contain the spread by enforcing safety measures at its facility and testing employees at its onsite clinic, citing "rapid, on-site testing" to curb any additional cases.

Legault confirmed last week that the impact of testing at the facility is expected to make a dent in service levels.

"These measures, combined with record-breaking volumes, will continue to have an impact on service," said Legault.

- With PWN Files



Opinion

Payette's departure a black mark on rubber-stamp process



Surjit Singh Flora
Column

The ink still hasn't dried on now-ex Governor General Julie Payette's departure from her post in disgrace late last week, in the wake of a damning report that found her and her top aide responsible for workplace harassment at Rideau Hall.

Claims emerged earlier this week that there may have been multiple instances of physical contact between Payette and staff members, while her executive assistant has reportedly retained the counsel of famed trial lawyer Marie Henein.

When PM Trudeau won his first election as leader of his party, he ran on a feminist platform. He was going to improve things for women.

Appointing Julie Payette is a part of that agenda. She is eminently qualified for the position.

These allegations, true or not, are nevertheless distracting from the GG's role.

It would be difficult to predict precisely what would happen; however, I

see several potential scenarios.

Nothing happens, and this is forgotten about. Apologies are issued, corrective measures taken, improvements made, and life moves on. Or she simply resigns and nothing else is done.

Social parameters bind the way people behave towards each other – some legislated for, others down to our own personal moral compasses. We are also motivated by various biases and various ego defence mechanisms, even if we are not aware of ourselves.

Human behaviour and development are relatively well understood, yet, as a society, we tend to focus on individual cases of harassment rather than ever address harassment itself – the reasons why it is so prevalent in society.

If we are tackling workplace bullying, we need to introduce a zero-tolerance approach to it. We would ensure that all staff received regular supervision, allowing people to discuss their work role, their place in the work environment and whether we need to support them through any

challenges they might be having.

It's essential to meet with people privately, as harassment is subjective – what one person is prepared to tolerate may be devastating for someone else.

There are always good reasons to spend time supporting employees, especially the fact that having a strong and confident team can increase productivity. But in GG Payette's case, she failed to handle this issue.

Within the workplace, we follow hierarchical structures, not dissimilar to the military. Instead of corporals, sergeants and captains, we have team leaders, supervisors and regional managers.

Have you noticed how authoritative it can make certain people when they're given power over others?

That's because we behave in predictable ways around authority – ours and other people's. Did not write anything saying that we must obey – we behave the way we do around it because we were taught to respond to it when we were young.

We are sovereign,

self-obsessed creatures, bouncing about on a rock, on the Orion arm of the Milky Way galaxy, twenty-five thousand light-years from its centre – we've gone through so much getting here to be dominated by someone else's language, or it's power of the position.

But as we live in 2021, no one has the right to abuse and disrespect each other here in Canada. Playing with people's lives, their sense of who they are, their mental health – it can all be destroyed by a tormenting boss.

These allegations are rampant, and

given a dropped charge of assault from Payette's past, and they seem very believable.

Workers deserve the chance to work in a non-toxic environment, and Canada deserves the opportunity to avoid a Trump-like bully as the person who signs our bills into law.

Payette's actions as our Governor General are a distraction from her public duties, and is not a good look for the Queen's representative here.

Payette has an outstanding career as an astronaut. But it does sound like her interpersonal skills

have some serious flaws. She should acknowledge this in advance and change to a more reconciled approach with employees.

As a Queen's representative, she had failed in her actual responsibilities to consider her decision's constitutionality.

If governors general are smiling figureheads who are remarkably restrained by precedent and outsource all decision-making power to their expert handlers, it does not matter who the Governor General is, as long they do not abuse its power and the position.



FEBRUARY 9, 2021

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Opinion

Trust is the true casualty in a pandemic climate

by Alex Gregory

Welcome to the new era, where uncertainty, mistrust and government confusion is the norm.

Last summer, I had a very interesting conversation with a good friend of mine -- a long-time community supporter -- about COVID-19 during a private get-together to celebrate a mutual friend's achievement.

We were sitting on his back patio having a drink when he nonchalantly told me that he had not only written 2020 off, but the following year as well.

This mindset was, in part, due to his concern over government decisions made over the intervening six months, and his claim that we would be dealing with this pandemic for a long time -- not due to apathy on the part of the

populace, but due to government confusion.

"This is going to last for years," he told me. "I'm not doing anything. No events, no participation, nothing. I'm going to focus on redoing my back deck, and I'm writing off next year too."

At the time, I thought he was slightly crazy for even suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic would roll on through the winter. Now I realize he was just ahead of the curve.

It's a new year, and government trust has continued to erode, not only here, but abroad.

Last week, an Abacus Data poll suggested that Premier Doug Ford's popularity has been steadily declining due to the COVID-19 epidemic, with his net popularity dropping like a rock since Au-

gust. The survey found that 40 per cent of those surveyed had a positive view of Ford. This figure was seven points lower than the survey conducted three months ago.

The majority of those surveyed say the government had full control of the situation in October, but that figure has now dropped by 25 points to 37 per cent. When asked about Ford's handling of the COVID-19 situation in general, 27 per cent said he did not do a good job and made several big mistakes.

The results were not as bad, but still hit Liberal leader Steven Del Duca and NDP leader Andrea Horwath as well, with slight decline in perception of their outlook.

If elections were held today, 34 per cent of those polled

said they would vote for Ford. 29 per cent said they would vote for the Liberals and 25 per cent said they would vote for the NDP.

They're far from the only ones dealing with trust issues.

In the U.K., advertising regulators put a stop to a government ad that suggested people who jogged or walked their dogs were "highly likely" have COVID, after internal complaints that it was scaring residents and causing misrepresentations about the validity of government claims regarding the virus.

The Netherlands have been dealing with nightly riots over COVID curfews. Italy's prime minister has resigned in disgrace amid renewed restrictions set up before Christmas. Spain has been hit-

ting all time highs, with a reported "third wave" of cases stretching ICUs to their limits, while political candidates jockey for votes amid imminent regional elections.

We're not immune to political ignorance here, either, with politicians spouting conspiracy theories, prominent officials being accused of physical assault against their own employees, the perception of a rudderless ship and no clear path forward beyond "throw money at every problem and see how long we hold out for."

That said, I'm not so naive to think that Trump-style politics have made their way up here, or that we're anywhere close to the quagmire our neighbours down south are facing, unlike the percep-

tion certain local outlets have peddled.

(There will be a column on the media's role in this pandemic next week. Stay tuned.)

I suggested in a previous column that if an election were held this year, that most (if not all) levels of government would most likely be voted out, and time hasn't changed that opinion. Politicians keep trying to stall out the virus and throw money at various issues without watching the monetary counter, and without admitting that there are serious, systemic flaws in our health care, long-term care and public systems (to reference a few) that need significant reform and direction, not just vague platitudes about how we'll all get through this together.



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A blue background featuring a central dashed white circle. Inside the circle are ten colorful circular icons of diverse people's faces. The Caledon Public Library logo is at the top center of the circle. The text 'YOUR LIBRARY YOUR FUTURE' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, a call to action asks for help planning the library's future and offers a survey for a chance to win an Acer Chromebook. The background is decorated with white speech bubbles and dotted lines.

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**Take our survey for a chance to
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A golf-themed poster for the 'Fore Mississauga' tournament. It features three male golfers in mid-air, celebrating on a green. They are wearing green shirts and various plaid shorts. A golf bag with a red and black plaid cover is on the right. The background is a mix of green, yellow, and blue. The Community Foundation of Mississauga logo is in the top right. A large white circle contains the event details. The Glencairn Golf Club logo is in the bottom left.

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Peel Matters: The Long Turn on Long-Term Care

by Catherine Soplet

Those hoping that a new decade has brought a long-sought turn in Long Term Care may have to keep waiting a little while longer.

A Toronto Star headline in its Tuesday edition read: "Pension funds pulling cash out of for-profit LTC sector." Of the \$44 million in holdings invested by international pension funds, two have divested from the sector, including Canada Pension Fund.

Another \$30 million in European holdings are threatened to divest from long term care chains like Extendicare, Sienna Senior Living and Chartwell Retirement Residences, pending a review to determine the contravention of ethical investment guidelines.

The news came as COVID-related fatalities in LTC homes hit new highs, with Tuesday's death count in facilities totalling 3,389, an increase of 20 per cent in just four weeks, over deaths in 2020 reported four weeks ago.

The Star closed the year by running its front-page investigative report "The Terrible toll of inaction: More than 2,700 dead."

Two-thirds of the front page were filled row on row with miniscule humanoid icons representing each of the 2,721 residents and 8 staff lives lost since Jan. 15,

2020.

On the following front page for New Year's Day, the Star headlined the post-vaccination resignation of Ontario Minister of Finance Rod Phillips.

Against public policy against non-essential travel and common sense, Phillips left Canada for a jet set trip to St. Bart's, which he attempted to mask by sporting a woolly sweater to his Cabinet webinar in front of a legislature backdrop that belied waves crashing on a beach.

The story ran over onto Page 10. An image of the now-masked Phillips was juxtaposed against the headline to report of the sudden death by a tragic fall of Ontario's Patient Advocate, Cathy Fook: Ontario's patient ombudsman dies in an accident.

Report of the incident was held until Dec. 31.

Fook was appointed in June as the province was battling the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that savaged long term care homes.

She brought more than 30 years to her new role, previously serving as Chief Executive for the Change Foundation with a mission to improving health care, and founding Executive Director of the Health Council of Canada.

The Star re-

ported that Fook, just six months into her job, pushed for more supports for long term care homes an emergency plans for staff shortages, flooding a number of disturbing complaints in a special report obtained by the Star in October.

As Winston Churchill he famously said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

Despite the distractions of COVID vaccine supply vs. storage vs. syringes into arms, and south of the border, the US insurrection

and inauguration, the Star has kept the Long Term Care on its front page of every issue since Jan. 1.

"Whenever we have made progress it's because the press were there to record and help us hold operators and government to account," said Natalie Mehra, the executive director of Ontario Health Coalition.

On Jan. 21, Mehra convened a virtual press event attended by 100 advocated caregivers and health sector union brass, which engaged a press gallery of

some 30 significant journalists.

Peel Region was well-represented in the traumatizing stories of families and professional caregivers.

Announcements of \$3 per hour of danger-pay raises from October have not been paid out. Staff shortages lead to impossible workloads with barely time for staff to meet basic nutrition and hygiene need.

Family members watched helpless as their elders in care screamed in pain for help.

Never let a good crisis go to waste.

February is pre-budget planning month in the province.

The Star headlined its LTC above-the-fold cover report "The bottom line – Crisis of Care".

Below the fold – "Ontario sitting on \$6.4B in unspent COVID aid" and a second story "Former bureaucrat admitted he 'diverted' \$11 million in COVID funding to a swathe of personal bank accounts, in Ontario and abroad."

Enough is enough. It's time to end privatized Long Term Care.





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Youth pastor jailed after historical investigation

Peel Police's Special Victims Unit have arrested a Youth Group Leader from a church in North Bramalea late last week, relating to a historical sexual exploitation and sexual assault investigation involving three teenagers.

The incidents spanned from 1998 to 2003. The victims did not sustain any physical injuries.

On Jan. 21, 2021,

Daryl Holliday, a 43-year-old man from Mississauga, was charged with three counts of sexual exploitation and three counts of sexual assault.

He will appear in Brampton court to answer to the charges on Mar. 29.

Investigators believe there may be additional victims and encourage them to contact the Special Victims Unit at (905) 453-2121, ext. 3460.





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Malton teacher awarded for work with students

A Mississauga teacher has been awarded with a prestigious honour for her work supplying bicycles to students who don't have their own.

Janice Lowe, a teacher in Malton, received the 2020 Phil Green Award during the city's regular council meeting on Wednesday for her work supporting the mental and physical well-being of students in her neighbourhood.

The Phil Green Award is presented annually by the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee (MCAC) to resident, group, or individual who works in the city who has shown exceptional effort to promote cycling in the community.

"Janice is an inspiration to us all. She recognized how the pandemic was negatively affecting the well-being of her students and she took initiative to fill the need she saw," said Ward 3 Councillor Chris Fonseca, who chairs the city's Cycling Advisory Committee. "By providing

bikes to students who didn't have their own, she gave them a way to get outdoor exercise and access their community - helping them stay happy, healthy and connected. I want to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to this incredible initiative and further encouraged our youth to cycle."

After learning that dozens of her students didn't have access to a bike, Lowe reached out to her network. She began collecting donations of bikes, helmets and bike locks to give to these students.

She then expanded her Grow, Lead, Excel (GLE) Movement program, which she started in 2018 to support the students at her school, bringing bikes to the greater Malton community.

Through donations from her network and the community, Lowe and the GLE Movement provided 150 bikes to Malton youth, teens and adults in 2020.

Loss of smell listed as most common COVID symptom

by Surjit Singh Flora

COVID-19 has caused a heavy burden on both developed and developing countries, with the number of infections rising from less than 1 million in Jan. 2020 to more than 100,933,425 infections and 2,169,732 deaths by Jan. 27, 2021.

The trend of disease transmission has unexpectedly burdened even countries with stable health structures and resources. The disease also disrupts economic, social and cultural activities.

New research suggests that loss of sense of smell is probably the most accurate sign of being infected with the corona epidemic.

Two international studies confirm that COVID-19 is the cause of most respiratory infections in patients who lose their sense of smell.

The disease also often causes a loss of taste and other senses in the mouth. A scientist from the University of Aarhus contributed to the new results, released earlier this month.

According to two international research findings published in the journal Chemical Senses, the most accurate symptom of a COVID-19 infection is that the patient loses the sense of smell. If this condition persists for a long time, then they will not know anything about the smell of something.

For the study, researchers interviewed 4,500 corona patients from 23 countries. It found that the average odour loss on a scale of 0-100 was 79.7, indicating a sizeable sensory loss.

Alexander Wieck Fjaeldstad of Aarhus University in Denmark said that the study shows, "That it is important to be aware of the loss of smell, because it may be the only symptom of this disease."

The researchers also found that some COVID-19 patients had a loss of taste. They did not know what to eat and what not to eat, and they did not know what they were eating.

Also, maintaining physical distance to prevent infection caused mental dis-

stress to the patients.

"The study is of interest to both patients suffering from sensory loss and clinicians and researchers involved in the diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19," said Fjaeldstad.

According to a recent study in France, more children were injured in 2020 than in 2019, and such incidents have had dangerous, unintended consequences: eye injuries among children, with sanitizer listed as a possible culprit.

An eye injury from exposure to hand sanitizer "is a known complication," said Dr. Sonal Tuli, A clinical spokesperson from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), which reviewed the findings.

Tuli pointed out that when the alcohol in sanitizer has not evaporated and a child rubs their eyes, disinfectant-related injuries may also occur.

"The blink reflex usually protects us from a large amount of disinfectant entering the eyes, and tears will dilute it. There-

fore, the irritation we see is similar to eye wash," said Tuli.

However, if more than a small portion of the disinfectant gets into the eyes, Tuli says it may cause more harm.

"It can cause corneal abrasions. Corneal abrasions or conjunctival epithelium can be damaged. This is similar to the scratches caused by nail injuries on the eyes. This can be very painful, but fortunately, this kind of wound is very painful but, heals quickly," said Tuli. "If a large amount enters the eye, it may cause larger defects, which may require more interventions to heal."

Since hand sanitizer is sterile, he added, infections or permanent damage are rare.

According to the French Poison Control Center, between Apr. 1, 2020, and Aug. 1, 2020, there were 232 sanitizer-related incidents, up from 33 last year.

Doctors say that children need water to wash their hands instead of using sanitizer.

TUESDAY

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Police looking for leads in sex assault case

Peel Police are looking for leads in connection with a sexual assault case that occurred in Mississauga last week.

Representatives from the force say that on Jan. 21, a 12 year-old girl and her younger sibling were in a park near an apartment in the Truscott and Bodmin Drive area around 5:30 p.m. when a man sat on a park bench and assaulted the 12 year-old girl.

The man fled the scene immediately afterwards and ran in the direction of a nearby plaza.

Police said Friday that the girl did not sustain any injuries as a result of the assault.

The suspect is described as a white male, of "average height," with a stocky build, who had brown eyes, uncut brown hair, and was wearing a black hooded sweater, black facemask, brown track-pants and black running shoes.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call Peel Police's Special Victims Unit at (905) 453-2121 ext. 3460.



City budget set for imminent approval

Barring any last-minute changes, Mississauga's 2021 budget and business plans will be approved Thursday morning, bringing a host of planned investments and upgrades to city services.

The city said Monday that the plan is set to be approved after a regional council presentation on Jan. 28, and will bring a proposed one per cent tax hike to residential properties, along with a two per cent stormwater charge increase and 0.6 per cent increase for commercial businesses.

The city had previously detailed a breakdown of the proposed changes and tax increases on

Nov. 23 during budget consultations, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Several recovery initiatives have been laid out in the budget, including a reduction in discretionary spending, no new material service level changes, an assessment of capital expenditures and a return to normal fee collection as soon as possible.

Additional fees brought in through several city divisions, including Recreation and Parks, Forestry and Environment programs, are expected to bring in approximately \$1.9 million in revenue, while no new transit fares were considered.



Smart tech on deck in Peel as province funds DEM

The province is picking up the ball set by Peel Region in a quest to modernize and boost digital evidence collection at municipal police stations.

The province announced last week that it would be investing in a new Digital Evidence Management program that would allow police forces and justice partners to share digital evidence faster and more securely.

The new program will ensure timely access to evidence, reduce delays and enable police to spend more time investigating crimes and keeping their communities safe, via the use of Axon Public Safety technology, which had been previously adopted for use by Peel Police via a shipment of Axon-developed body cameras.

"This investment will help drive forward our ongoing efforts to modernize Ontario's criminal justice system by transforming the way digital evidence is

managed by police and justice partners," said Sylvia Jones, the province's solicitor general. "By eliminating the need for sharing and transporting evidence in person, police officers will spend less time carrying out administrative work and more time on what matters most - protecting our communities."

The new program will provide police services with access to cloud-based technology to allow evidence, once physically handled, to be shared securely amongst justice sector partners, as well as enable police services to securely share digital evidence with Crown attorneys and other police services, eliminating the need to transport multimedia files on USBs and DVDs.

The technology also allows police forces to request help from the public, enabling the public to upload evidence directly to the system in relation to an investigation while remaining anonymous.



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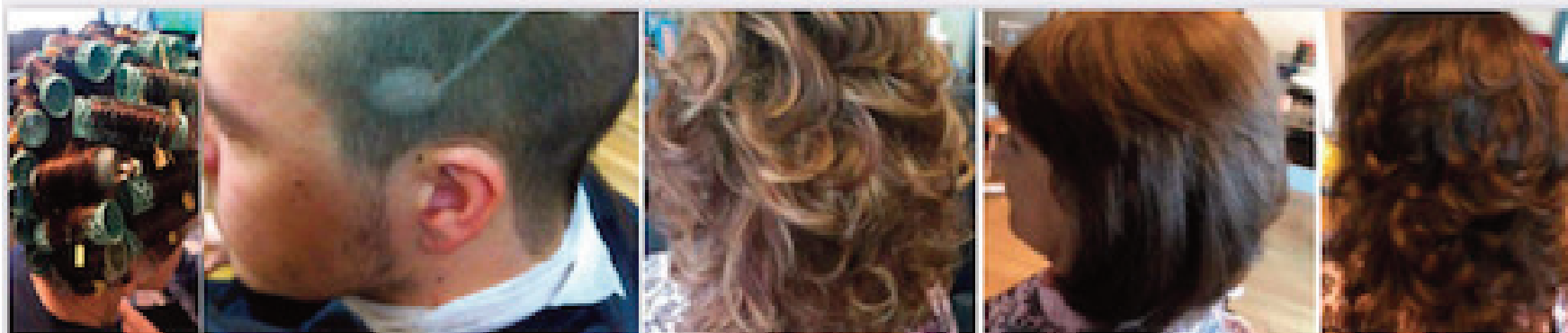
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stop resource, as we seek to launch an upgraded platform to expand our online reach through greater connectivity with our readers, the expansion of our Premium Membership Program and much more! Look for additional details in the coming weeks, and keep watching PeelWeeklyNews.com for all that Peel has to offer!

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Hard-hit COVID zone gets testing centre through advocacy

One of Brampton's hardest-hit COVID hotspots has received a lifeline — in the form of a new testing centre.

The South Asian COVID Task Force announced Friday that the new centre, located at the Embassy Grand Convention Centre on The Gore Road, will help address a surge in COVID-19 case numbers by offering a much-needed testing facility for residents who think

they may have the virus.

The launch of the testing site was made in tandem with provincial strategies to help target high-priority communities that have emerged as hotspots for the virus, and will aid local health authorities by offering adding more testing capacity and access to testing.

The site will be open from Tuesday-Sunday, from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., with tests that can

be booked over the phone in multiple languages. Staff will be made available onsite to help communicate with and diagnose residents.

Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel's medical officer of health, recognized the importance of the new testing site and thanked the task force for their support.

"Peel Public Health welcomes new testing sites throughout Peel and will continue to request more," Loh said Friday.

"We are excited that this testing facility will help efforts to control transmission among the South Asian community in our region. Our data has shown that this community has been particularly impacted by the pandemic, owing to many factors related to our community context... this centre helps reduce barriers to testing and supports our continuing efforts to engage this community in an impactful way to help save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19."

Evidence shows that newcomers, racially diverse, and low-income communities have been impacted more significantly by COVID-19 than others, and community specific supports are needed to address the complex barriers

restricting their access to services.

The South Asian community makes up just a third of the population in Peel, yet they account for almost half of all new positive COVID-19 cases reported.

Many members of the South Asian community are essential workers in industries such as healthcare, food supply, transportation, manufacturing and logistics, and provide key economic services to the region and the province.

In a statement, the Task Force said they were able to leverage the support of the convention centre, which previously hosted private functions and large cultural celebrations, with a renewed purpose that would help it provide high-

quality testing and communicate with residents more easily.

"(This) is a testament to the need for local advocacy and community partnerships," a spokesperson for the task force said. "For the past two months, the SA Task Force has worked with the Local Health Integration Network, Peel Public Health, and Ontario Health, to increase testing capacity and make testing more accessible to the community. High Priority Communities are better served when local governments, government agencies, members of the community and community leaders join forces to help identify and tackle the unique challenges and barriers of each community."



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New BRT line set for south Mississauga through funding

A new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line has picked up a massive funding boost from the province and federal government, the City of Mississauga announced last Thursday.

The city will receive \$113.5 million in funding through a major infrastructure program to help fund various transit projects, including \$55.5 million earmarked towards the new BRT line, which will service three stops in the Lakeview area in south

Mississauga.

The federal government will put in \$62 million through public transit infrastructure funding, while the province will chip in \$51.5 million for the new line, which will service East Avenue, near the corner of Cawthra and Lakeshore Road, to Delta Road, situated near the Mississauga-Etobicoke border.

Representatives from all three levels of government said last week that the move will boost ac-

cessible and sustainable public transit throughout the area.

"Both the federal and provincial government understand the pressing need to invest in Mississauga's public transit infrastructure as the city continues to grow,"

Mayor Bonnie Crombie said in an online news conference last week. "The investment will help us improve passenger safety and build a more reliable transit system."

The city will also contribute \$44.5 million towards

transit-related projects, with funds earmarked towards new signage, bus shelters, bus fleet rehabilitation and associated initiatives.

In total, 12 projects will be funded through the new investment.

"With this invest-

ment, we'll be able to build sustainable infrastructure for our transit system and help stimulate our local economy by connecting people through reliable transit," said the city's chief administrative officer, Gary Kent.



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BUSINESS

Renovations due as Central Library sets renaming date

Mississauga's Central Library will close to the public on March 20, 2021 for upcoming renovations.

The closure marks the start of a two-year renovation project of

the city's largest and 30 year-old library building. Construction will begin in Apr. 2021.

The library will reopen in 2023, the city said in a statement.

Contactless pickup, along

with a small collection of books, will continue to be made available as the renovation work continues, and will be relocated to the Living Arts Centre (4141 Living Arts Drive).

Additional collections will be available across the other 17 locations. When in-person activities can resume in the future, the library will look at providing programs

in the downtown area, city staff said.

In honour of former Mayor Hazel McCallion's 100th birthday and her decades of service to Mississauga, the city will also rename Central Library to Hazel McCallion Central Library.

The new name will be formally unveiled at the City Council meeting on Feb. 10, 2021.



Small business support grant will help weather "second wave" storm

by Prabmeet Sarkaria, Special

Small businesses across Ontario have demonstrated true resilience amid COVID-19.

As the proud son of two small business owners, I know the struggle and challenges that come with running a small business, and I understand what a difficult and unrelenting year this has been.

It's tough for small businesses to survive at the best of times—the pandemic has only exacerbated the issues that so many of these businesses face.

Small businesses are the heartbeat of our economy. They bring life to our communities and create jobs and opportunities for our families.

In 2019 alone, small businesses employed 2.4 million Ontarians and made up over 98 per cent of all businesses in Ontario.

From restaurants to unique shops to creative enterprises,

the vibrancy of our small business communities is directly tied to the strength of our economy overall.

That's why the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant is so important.

This one-time grant of up to \$20,000 will give eligible small business owners the boost they need to meet today's challenges. The grant was designed so that each recipient could use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for their business.

For example, some may use the support to pay employee wages or rent, while others may use the funds to maintain their inventory—but what remains is the freedom and flexibility for our small businesses to decide what's best for them.

To help them weather this storm, small businesses with less than 100 employees are eligi-

ble for this grant if they are required to close their doors or significantly restrict their services as part of the province-wide shutdown.

In addition, they must have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in Apr. 2020 when compared to Apr. 2019.

New businesses established since Apr. 2019 will also be eligible, provided they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Eligible small businesses can apply for this grant, along with other financial support, including up to \$1,000 to help with the cost of personal protective equipment.

We are also providing rebates to cover costs related to property tax and energy bills.

All four grant programs are available through a single application process. The application and all other small business resources may

be found at our single-window site, ontario.ca/covidsupport.

In the face of closures, and to link our small businesses to new markets and opportunities, our government has also been helping them go digital to reach more customers through the \$57 million Digital Main Street program, supported by the federal and provincial government.

This program provided small businesses with a \$2,500 grant to assist with the costs of establishing or enhancing their digital presence.

And to support jobs at local restaurants and bars, we've expanded opportunities in alcohol sales, including making the sale of alcohol with food takeout and delivery orders permanent and capped delivery fees charged to restaurants.

We've also made permanent our pol-

icy of 24/7 deliveries to retail stores, restaurants, hotels and distribution facilities to help ensure that shelves stay stocked and businesses can operate efficiently.

Knowing how important small businesses are to the vitality of our communities and our economy, our government is making every effort to support them through this difficult time.

I continue to wel-

come all suggestions on how we can help business through Ontario's Tackling the Barriers portal.

As the pandemic evolves, we will continue to explore new ways to help these businesses recover, rehire, and rebuild today to give them hope for a brighter tomorrow.

—
MPP Prabmeet Sarkaria is Ontario's Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction.



Province ups broadband investment in Caledon

The province and the fed will boost Caledon's broadband infrastructure with a \$4.3 million investment to connect over 800 homes to more reliable internet service.

The announcement, made Monday, will see both levels of government commit up to \$1.1 million to two projects that will create more economic and educational opportunities in rural, remote and underserved areas of the province through an improved,

modern broadband internet network.

One of the two projects is valued at \$2.5 million, and will deliver reliable internet access to more than 471 homes and businesses in Albion and Centreville Creek, at the region's north end.

Construction is expected to be complete with full service available by Mar. 2022.

The contracts to expand fibre-optic broadband services in Caledon were awarded by Southwestern In-

tegrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Inc, a not-for-profit corporation initiated by local municipalities to address connectivity in Southwestern Ontario.

"The beginning of construction of broadband infrastructure in Caledon is an important step forward in our plan to deliver broadband that supports better educational opportunities, attracts more businesses and creates jobs," said

Minister of Agriculture Ernie Hardeman.

"It's extremely important that we continue to expand broadband connectivity to our rural and remote areas, because the internet has become a critical tool that is used in almost every aspect of life."

SWIFT board chair David Mayberry also said he was pleased to see construction get underway to improve access to broadband service.

"We continue to work together to

deliver long-term sustainable broadband solutions to further support our rural communities in Southwestern Ontario," said Mayberry.

Work continues to bridge the gaps in broadband access in Southwestern Ontario, as part of a combined federal – provincial investment of more than \$191 million to bring fast, reliable and affordable internet to thousands of homes and businesses.

The new investment will allow

communities to attract new development, strengthen local economies and create more well-paying jobs and opportunities in rural areas.

In total, the province and feds are each contributing more than \$63 million to SWIFT through the New Building Canada Fund's Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – Small Communities Fund of the Investing in Canada plan.

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CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Brampton hospital changes clinic hours as testing adapts to peak hours of demand

As the number of COVID-19 patients in need of hospitalization remains high, Brampton's William Osler Health System said Tuesday that it will be introducing new hours for its COVID-19, Cold and Flu Clinic and Brampton COVID-19 Testing Centre – both located at Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness – in order to ensure continued capac-

ity for safe, quality care delivery at its hospital sites.

Effective Feb. 1, Osler's COVID-19, Cold and Flu Clinic will open from 2 - 8:30 p.m. daily, to serve those who are eligible for COVID-19 testing and need to see a doctor without an appointment.

The same day, Osler's Brampton COVID-19 Testing Centre will begin operating from 2 - 9 p.m. daily for testing only by appointment.

In a statement, the health system said that the new hours allow it to redeploy highly skilled staff to areas of greatest need, while aligning the hospital's COVID-19 assessment and testing capacity to its peak hours of demand.

"As we continue to provide care to a high number of COVID-19 patients, it is important for us to optimally utilize our staffing and adapt our health

care services to ensure we can serve the hospitals needs," said chief operating officer Kiki Ferrari. "The new hours is one of many strategies we are employing to ensure we have the capacity to provide safe, quality care to even more patients – if needed – in the time ahead."

For more information about COVID-19 testing options, visit williamoslerhs.ca.



Registration reopens for bizdev program

Students aged 15-19 who have a great business idea can help launch it with the support of the Summer Company Grant Program, announced Monday.

This summer, successful applicants will have the opportunity to take part in business training and mentorship programs, along with a grant of up to \$3,000, to support their summer business, the city said ahead of the launch of the program.

Students in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga who want to attend the program can learn more by attending a free information session, which will be hosted on Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 and Apr. 7.

The information sessions will outline the eligibility criteria, program requirements and how to apply.

To be considered

for the Summer Company Program, participants must answer a few questions to see if they are eligible to apply to the program.

More information can be found by visiting the Ontario Summer Company website at ontario.ca/summercompany.

Participants will need to complete an application package, which includes a business plan, start up budget and cash flow forecast.

Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. Selected candidates will be contacted and invited to participate in the program.

The deadline to apply to the 2021 Summer Company Program is Monday, Apr. 19, 2021 5 p.m.

The program will be delivered virtually in Mississauga and Brampton from May - Aug. 2021.

Community Foundation of Mississauga

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Dufferin Federation of Agriculture Working With County To Expand Capacity for Local Farmers

by Sylvia Jones, MPP

Something that makes me proud to serve as MPP Dufferin-Caledon is the incredible agriculture sector we have in our community and across the province.

It is the hard work, dedication and innovation of our farmers, agribusinesses and agri-food workers who have helped keep food on grocery store shelves and family dinner tables at this critical time.

Last year, the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA), working with the County of Dufferin, stepped up to the plate to help local farmers affected by COVID-19 disruptions.

Together, they announced a feasibility study focused on how to get more processing capacity for our livestock producers.

I am very happy to see this study is now moving ahead. The

study will help our farmers better market their products and strengthen our food supply and is an excellent example of the initiative and collaboration that makes Ontario's agriculture sector so strong and renowned.

I know COVID-19 has caused issues and disruptions in our meat processors and that has impacted farmers in our community.

However, our government has been swift to respond, providing necessary support and investment for the sector through several key initiatives while continuing to work with the sector to ensure long-term competitiveness.

Since Feb. 2019, we have committed up to \$2 million for projects to help improve food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity measures at provincially licensed abattoirs.

We also extended the intake window under this program by two months to further support the sector.

Last December, Ontario and Canada launched the Meat Processors Capacity Improvement Initiative – an additional \$4 million program to help processing plants increase their productivity and capacity through improvements to product handling and processing equipment.

We are working quickly on these investments, having already approved projects under this program and reviewing the rest of the applications as fast as possible.

Immediate action was taken to support farmers who were recently affected by COVID-19 meat processing disruptions.

The \$5 million Canada-Ontario

COVID-19 Agri-Recovery Beef Emergency Feed Maintenance Initiative allowed beef

farmers to apply for emergency funding to help cover increased costs of feeding and setting aside market-ready cattle due to COVID-19 related processing delays.

\$5 million in emergency assistance was also made available for hog farmers through a similar program.

Our government recognizes the chal-

lenges COVID-19 has caused in the agriculture and processing industries.

That is why we're providing ongoing help to farmers and processors to keep them strong and supported at this time, ensuring they can keep feeding our province and country.

I want to thank the DFA and County of Dufferin for the great work they are doing helping our local farmers and the sector at large.

This study will

help provide real support for producers now and in the future, and I am looking forward to seeing the results.

If you want more information on the local agriculture and food sector, I encourage you to read Food for Thought – Dufferin Business Retention and Expansion Report, available at dufferincounty.ca.

For additional information about provincial services contact me at sylvia-jonesmpp.ca.



BRAMPTON BOARD OF TRADE

BEA2021

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are Open



In business or in politics, be as humble as the ground you walk on

by Vidya Gopaul

Last week, I was made aware of the news that Julie Payette had resigned from her responsibility as Governor General of Canada.

If this job is performed correctly, you can keep it for a long time and it does not require that much effort to carry out the duties. Most parts of the job are ceremonial.

It was later reported in the news that Payette had some turbulent personal incidents in her past.

She has been accused of assaulting her ex-husband in the U.S., killed a pedestrian in a car accident in the U.S. and had created a very toxic working environment in several workplaces.

Despite that, she is a very intelligent and accomplished woman. She is a former astronaut, engineer, concert pianist, and fluently speaks several languages.

What more one can we ask of an applicant for the job of

Governor General of Canada?

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, was in a rush to appoint a woman to a post of Governor General because he wanted to give both genders an equal opportunity, which is an excellent mindset.

However, rumours in the press suggest that he did not thoroughly vet Payette, and offered her the job by circumventing the non-partisan committee created by the previous Conservative government to recommend worthy nominees for such positions.

That shows two sides of the PM; namely, he is above the law and he can do whatever he pleases for the party, and not the public at large.

(I always ask myself, is there any politician in the world who works for the country and not solely for the party?)

Trudeau has gone through scandal

after scandal in his six years as PM.

Allegations of groping, the "black-face incidents," taking a vacation to Aga Khan's island, the SNC-Lavalin scandal, kicking out two of his most prominent female MPs from high profile cabinet jobs, a humiliating trip to India, the WE Charity scandal and now this.

Giving a very high profile job, Governor General, to a less qualified candidate? When will he stop deceiving the Canadians?

I guess his youth and charming looks are keeping him on the job!

It seems that he keeps saying, "I'll do whatever I want, however I want. Just watch me!"

Sound familiar? His father, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, former Prime Minister of Canada, said the same thing at the door step of Parliament Hill during October Crisis in Quebec in 1970.

Let's suppose Justin Trudeau had

properly vetted Julie Payette and found out all the concerning aspects about her past, the toxic environment she had created for employees, verbal abuse and harassment and bullying of her employees.

Do you think he would not have given that position to her?

I think he would have because, first, the candidate is female. Second, she was a star from Quebec and had a celebrity status. Third, she is well educated. Fourth, he would have hired her for that job anyway, for the sole reason that he could do it without anybody's permission and promote women to high positions - a mandate for his election platform.

As for Payette, all she had to do was to keep smiling to the public, be friendly, respect the audience, be a people person, keep the governmental affairs in order and be paid handsomely.

But I guess those were too easy to follow, and she decided to take the path of most resistance.

It is possible that all those celebrity perks, her high level education and work as an astronaut made her believe that she was given that job on a silver platter without any competition; would it have made her think that she was very special and was above everybody else?

In other words, did she look down on others?

Maybe she has an arrogant, egotistical sense of pride over how successful she is, and does not want to show respect for ordinary people.

She never showed humility when you look at her past and present when dealing with people. She never expressed that she was just like any other people — namely, breathing, walking, eating and sleeping like any human being.

With all that education, one might think that she would have had the interpersonal skills that would be useful in dealing with her surroundings. But it seems she did not.

Therefore, a job should be given to the most qualified candidate — and not because you have to meet a certain quota or the candidate is a man or woman, has celebrity status, well known in the community, or is of a certain colour or creed.

Anyone who believes he or she is above everybody else is bound to fall badly from the sky, and that includes political figures, family members, the president of a company/country or even friends.

I have seen a lot in my lifetime. If you do not behave as humble as the ground you walk on, then you will never know what you will be!

TOWN OF CALEDON

Proposed 2021 Budget



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LIFESTYLE / AROUND TOWN

Behind The Scenes - A Headwaters Arts Retrospective for 2020

by E.C. Munson

It was the worst of times before it became the best of times, cycling back yet again to what still could be labeled the worst of times; the verdict pending on these recent weeks.

With the start of this brave new decade, the classic inventory at a year's end assumes more importance.

The mere chronicling of gains made and things left behind in 2020, should provide grist for the mills of reflection, the impetus to move forward, and a collective whoop of jubilation for Headwaters Arts members.

All told, there is much to celebrate and share from this past year for this vibrant group of artists. There has been an ongoing rollout of scheduled shows, with the gallery committee and gallery coordinators seamlessly moving the viewing of exhibits to the website when the gallery was closed during provincial restrictions.

The membership continued to grow, there was a significant rebuilding of the board of directors, and the bringing back of the flagship event, the annual fall festival, which proved to be a triumph of orchestration with the constant changing of provincial guidelines on gatherings allowed for events.

Attendance at the Artful Revival Festival Exhibition in the early fall was very strong! The Alton Mill Arts Centre counted 866 people who walked through

those doors during the three-week festival.

With high praise from the local dignitaries who attended the afternoon fete or evening gala, there was much to celebrate for Headwaters Arts.

Under the leadership of Festival Director, Ari Momeni, the board of directors, with their several committees and volunteers, the inspirational artwork of 52 artists from across Ontario was successfully exhibited in three galleries at the Alton Mill Arts Centre.

As well, several arts related events, both onsite and virtual, were part of the three-week festival in this renowned tourist destination area, the Hills of Headwaters.

Artists from the local area were well represented with distinctions and awards, those being announced and presented during the afternoon fete.

Likewise, the two scholarship winners announced during the evening gala were from high schools in Erin and Orangeville. At the closing of the show the People's Choice Award was announced, going to artist Robert Chisholm of Orangeville, whose

piece, Lady Devine, had already placed third in this provincial exhibition.

The return of their annual fall fundraiser and festival demonstrated the versatility and sound planning of the Headwaters Arts board with the combination of virtual access to programming along with on-site scheduling of events.

Participants in their own very successful 'proposal shows' at the Headwaters Arts Gallery.

Members Marnie Cooke of Orangeville, Jolanta Jung of Inglewood, and Susan Kelly of Guelph mounted their EAST GREETINGS WEST! exhibit in August and Sherry Park of Brampton hung Cape Breton Highlands after the

widely, all are invitations to share these artists' moods as we move into our new decade.

From landscapes, florals, still life, and abstract pieces in various media, there is a wonderful array of moods explored. Pensive and considered or pent up with energy bursting forth, contemplative, looking forward with hope, or nostalgic tinged views of simpler moments, strong and bold colours, rich vignettes and spare, minimalist panels.

All of these may be viewed and purchased on the Headwaters Arts site.

The variety and verve in this show embody the spirit and energy of the Headwaters Arts' current membership and organizational structure.

With nine members sitting on the board at the end of 2020 compared to two members at the AGM in May 2019, the way forward is more firmly assured. Marion Plaunt, of the Sponsorship Committee, chairs a vigorous group with their annual and ongoing outreach for area sponsors and applications for various grants.

Under the direction of accomplished curator, Regan Jane

Hayward, as chair for the Gallery Committee, the shows continued to be mounted, whether as virtual exhibitions or hung on the walls of the gallery.

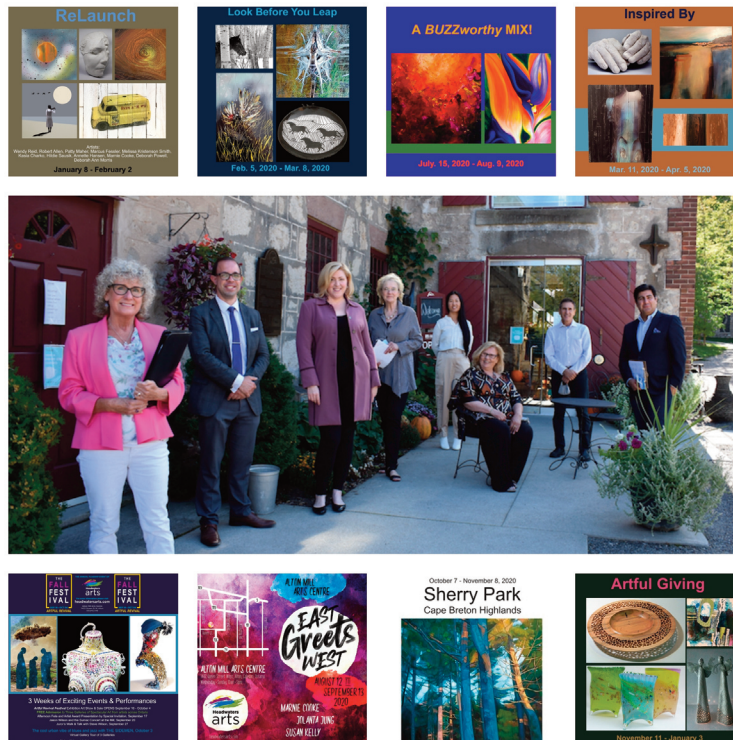
The Marketing, Communication and PR Committee has grown from one person in Feb. 2020 to encompass two key teams, Social Media posters and the Editorial Team, with close to a dozen volunteers and chaired by Connie Munson.

Evaluations and adjustments to the current website continue under the direction of Jordan Grant, member at large on the board, and Deb Menken, a Gallery Coordinator as well as long-time volunteer in many capacities.

Sitting on the executive are new board members, including Jenny Makula as Treasurer, while Margi Taylor, Acting President, guides all with much finesse and aplomb.

Commended by the Honourable Allan Thompson, Mayor of Caledon, at the afternoon fete during the festival, for their determination and resiliency in 2020, the energetic renewal going on within the collective and their many initiatives throughout the past year is more than promising for Headwaters Arts Gallery as they enter this new decade.

For more information on all of Headwaters' current exhibitions and upcoming events, visit the website at headwatersarts.com.



The state-of-the-art Virtual Gallery Tour showed all three galleries of work in this exhibition and was available through early December for viewing and purchases.

Ari Momeni, Chair of Special Events, introduced the new technology for the on-site filming of the work in three galleries which was later uploaded to the Headwaters Arts website for the spectacular virtual tour.

There were four Headwaters Arts members who par-

festival closed in October.

Sherry was then invited to move her exhibit upstairs to The Pond Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre in the late fall, where it continues to hang; available to view and purchase virtually at headwatersarts.com/sherry-park-cape-breton-highlands/.

The current show, A New Mood, open to all members, celebrates an eclectic and energizing collection from seven artists. With moods and media ranging

Backyard Garden Program sprouts again in Brampton

Brampton's popular Backyard Garden Program returns for a second year on Feb. 1. The eco-friendly initiative helps support food security in the city by

providing participants with free soil, seeds and helpful tips to grow their own backyard garden.

This year's program is open to new participants

only, including those who did not have the opportunity to participate in 2020.

The Backyard Garden Program encourages residents to grow pro-

duce and herbs from the comfort of their own homes and donate their homegrown crops to local food banks and community organizations.

"This program

brings our community together, keeps participants active, and provides food supports for residents in need," said Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown earlier this week.

The program also supports the Mayor's COVID-19 Social Support Task Force's focus on food security, reaffirms the city's priority of being a sustainable green city, and promotes residents' mental and physical well-being.

Residents can register online to receive free seeds and soil starting Monday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. at [brampton.ca/backyardgarden](#).

Photos of this year's backyard gardens, gardening tips, tutorials and resources will also be available on the web page.

The program had a very successful inaugural year in 2020, with more than 10,000 pounds of produce donated to local food banks and community organizations for residents in need from April to October; including the Knights Table, Regeneration, Khalsa Aid, and United Sikhs.

This initiative was the first of its kind in Canada, initiated in response to COVID-19.



Health and Wellness - Realizing Your Goals

by Elizabeth Banfalvi

Do you have any goals? If so, what are your goals?

Goals help us find balance and true happiness in our lives. If every day we get up and have nothing to follow, then where are we?

Our life goes by so quickly, we sometimes forgot to set and move towards our goals. So, what do you want in your life?

We are very multifaceted and to help us see things clearer, we should set goals in the areas of our life. As children, we tended to look at new things and comprehend them as interesting.

Do you do the same?

Setting goals in your personal life, work, relationships and career are important.

Once you are clear about what you want, it is easier to

make it a goal and to work towards it.

We all have a personal life, so what do you want as the most important aspect of it? What would make your life better and easier?

Would having and writing in a journal help in the day-to-day personal issues? Would doing something every day help lead you to where you want to go?

Your career is so important to keep alive and active so learning new aspects of your work and attending conferences and meetings help extend what and who you know. It also helps you to understand what is beyond what you already know.

Your career will change as time goes by. Technology gets updated and so do your career requirements. Staying as

you are doesn't help you or your career.

Relationships are also important to keep fresh and alive, so what do you want with your relationships? Whether it is a romantic or just with friends, they are important in your life's direction.

Friends and partners come and go and they bring a lot with them sometimes not that good. So how and when do you accept the fact they changed you? What is it you want in your life? Who you know is so important and the fact you spend time with them is also important?

So, what are your goals in your personal life? Everyone makes a difference.

Spirituality is all about your energy and how you can direct it. Meditation can be part of what you do.

Being kind and helping others also helps. What your spiritual beliefs are is so important. It is what guides you to how you feel.

What are your spiritual beliefs? Do you believe in the best of all is there for you? Open yourself up to that. Believe in the best of all.

Health and wellness – how do you care for your body? That is important. Diet, exercise, fresh air are all important. Drink water and keep hydrated. Keep your body in tune.

Yoga and other meditative exercises are so good for your body and mind. It teaches you breathing exercises which are so important. Be open to different ways to keep yourself healthy.

Your physical environment – how is it? It is good to clean up your environment and keep it that way. A clean environment is a clue to what your mental environment is like.

If your thoughts are cluttered then a cleanup in your physical realm is good.

Making goals in what you are living is good. It gives you direction and projects you forward. Make goals for your life in all aspects. Keep a journal and evaluate your progress.

As time goes by update and reevaluate your goals. When you read back in the past, you will be surprised at how you have developed and how the goals have worked.

So, take the time to make goals and follow them. It is for the best of you and that is important.



Local artist “bedazzles” at new virtual art reception

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, a spectacular exhibit of exquisitely beaded jewellery by local artist Craig Ewing is now on display, with the help of a local arts organization.

Arts on the Credit will host an opening event next Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. virtually, for a tour of its first ever jewellery exhibit and opportunity for residents to meet the artist responsible for this wonderful work.

Arts on the Credit is presenting this exhibit, which will run in its virtual gallery for the month of February.

Ewing has designed an array of beautiful pieces; bracelets, chokers, necklaces and ear-

rings.

Ewing has been creating one-of-a-kind pieces for many years, making wearable art for everyday as well as more elaborate designs for special occasions.

Brides often seek out Ewing to custom design accessories for themselves and others in their wedding party.

“I find endless inspiration in fashions from the art deco era of the 1930s to the post-war flare of the 1950s”, relates Ewing.

He is known for his beautiful pearl necklaces which he strings by honoured traditional methods. “My pieces are built one pearl, crystal or

bead at a time, taking hours and hours to complete. Some of my pieces have taken as many as 45 hours to build, one tiny bead at a time”, adds Ewing. “It is so rewarding to be able to add that special touch to someone’s special day”.

Ewing regularly

exhibits his work in high-end art shows throughout the area. He often receives requests to accessorize fashion photo shoots and has been featured often in the media. Arts on the Credit is honoured to present Ewing’s incredible work in its gallery space.

Arts on the

Credit, a not for profit arts organization in Mississauga is embracing the virtual and highlighting member artists each month in 2021, pivoting to ensure the ongoing promotion and showcasing of local talent.

The organization has invested in cut-

ting edge technology for the exhibitions; highly engaging 3D programming that will delight art lovers and the community during these difficult times.

To attend the launch event on Feb. 3, email contact@artsonthecredit.ca.



CPL asks for feedback on strategic direction

Caledon Public Library (CPL) needs your help as it embarks on the development of a new strategic plan to guide the Library Board and Staff in the delivery of future public library services to the residents of the Town.

“It’s more than

providing traditional library services to Caledon residents,” says Colleen Lipp, CPL CEO and Chief Librarian. “It’s about listening carefully to our community, our staff and essential research, and stepping outside of the box to demonstrate

that we are truly relevant to your needs and essential to Caledon’s quality of life. We need your feedback in order to do so.”

CPL recently retained the services of Lighthouse Consulting Inc. to assist in the development of a four-year

Strategic Plan that includes an online survey available at cpl.social/yourinput.

Feedback will be collected from the community until Feb. 15. All participants will be entered for a chance to win an Acer 11.6-inch Chromebook.

Focus groups will also be used to learn more about the community’s needs while identifying new and innovative ways to provide services and resources.

“As per our current strategic plan, CPL is envisioned as a vital service and vibrant community space. Over the last four years we have worked to strengthen facilities, build partnerships and encourage discovery, creativity and innovation,” adds Lipp.

“To genuinely reflect the vision, needs and expectations of you, the Caledon community, with this new Plan, we hope to hear from as many voices as possible.”

Caledon Public Library (CPL) currently operates

seven branches across Caledon. With branches located in both suburban and rural locations, the Library said it is well positioned within this community of communities.

Over 300,000 visits were made to local branches in 2019, with close to 440,000 items circulating and over 20,000 residents participating in library programs.

Caledon Public Library currently offers Contactless Holds Pickup at all branches.

Staff continue to provide virtual reference and reader’s advisory assistance Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. by phone at (905) 857-1400, ext. 244; or email at reference@caledon.library.on.ca.



Hazel, Hearts and Nature Come Together to Celebrate Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, which also happens to be former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion's birthday, is going to look a little different this year.

Dinner out is a no-go, but thanks to Chef Massimo Capra and our friends at Capra's Kitchen, you can have an exquisite Valentine's Day/Hazel McCallion Day meal right at home – and help preserve nature in the city!

When you pre-order a meal from Capra's Kitchen's special St. Valentine menu and pick it up from the restaurant on Sunday, Feb. 14, a portion of proceeds will be donated to The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC), the charity that provides programs and direction for 150 acres of urban nature reserve in the heart of Mississauga.

Hazel McCallion, a TRC patron,

often refers to Riverwood as "the gem of the city." Through her long and distinguished political career, she never forgot the importance of connecting the residents of Mississauga to the beauty of nature.

You can help keep those connections alive while celebrating Valentine's Day and Hazel McCallion's 100th birthday! And you'll support a local small busi-

ness in the process. What's not to love?

A three-course dinner costs \$80 per person (plus tax), and a three-course vegetarian/vegan dinner costs \$70 per person (plus tax).

All orders should be placed online at capraskitchen.com. Orders must be placed by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Orders can be picked up at Capra's Kitchen, located at 1834 Lakeshore Road

West, Mississauga, between 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14 and 7 p.m.



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Winter in My Childhood Tomorrow

by Yiren

I spent my childhood in a small city in northern China dozens of years ago.

The winter there was very cold but full of fun. In my memory, there wasn't much snow, two or three times each year and only a thin layer each time.

Whenever it snowed, people, especially kids like me, would sweep the courtyard with broom. After the small area in front of home had been cleaned, we would start sweeping the alley.

Of course, we did not clear the whole alley but just a small, narrow pathway which allowed at least one person to walk through. It was for the convenience of whoever had to go out for work or something else.

It was one the few rare times when almost all

the people who lived in the alley came out at the same time and did something together.

Adults would say or wave hi to each other and exchange greetings and other words. In the pleasant atmosphere, kids got excited.

We began to run around chasing one another and throwing snow at any one coming across. The whole area was full of people's voices and kids' happy noise.

Another great fun was the ice on window glass. Every morning when I woke up, there would be ice on window glasses. It formed beautiful patterns which varied every day.

My brother and I loved those morning moments when we started to imagine what the patterns were like and make stories out of

it.

I would say, "This is my corn field. A small rabbit here is looking for the biggest, sweetest corn." My brother did not agree, saying, "Oh, no. That's my little dog looking for a friend there." Or, "the fairy girl is flying in the sky." "Look at this biggest peach in my tree!"

At that time, people lived a very simple life and did not have any plants inside the house.

My mom, when she cut vegetables, would put the root end of a bakchoi (Chinese cabbage) or a radish in a small plate with some water.

In a couple of days, it would sprout. And gradually, there would be small leaves growing. In most cases, it would end up blooming some small yellow flow-

ers, which really brightened up the home in gloomy winter weather.

Even a power outage could be a happy time. My mom would light a candle and put it on a table beside the stove. Then, she'd bring over some potatoes and start roasting them.

And then, there came stories, jokes, games and laughs while the appetizing smell of potatoes attracted our eyes and stomach once and again until mom brought them onto the table.

Oh, the flavor, the light, the voices, the warmth! How many winter nights of mine later on in my life have been glistered and comforted with these memories!

My unforgettable childhood winter time, winter fun!

by Sajeda Manzoor

Past memories
Have to go
They hurt and
haunt
Let them fly
Dare to dream
They have to grow
There is always
A tomorrow

Astray wind
Roars on the
shore
Teases the
flamingoes
Migratory birds
Follow together
To their
destination
build new homes
Rain drops
Fall tip top
Water flows down

Makes soothing

sound
The green grasses
grow
There is always
A tomorrow

Mountains and
oceans
Hit the tornadoes
Create lots of
commotion
The inhabitants
All of a sudden
see a rainbow

The tiny sprouts
Slowly grow
Earth whispers
You have to
flourish and
dance
Kiss the flowers
Let them grow
There is always
A tomorrow



LISTENING

Lean in and listen
Intriguing
Sound of moments
Taking their place among
Eternity
Not fading into silence
Increasing their reach beyond
Now
Growing louder as we listen

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The Artful Corridor of Commerce - Winter Edition

by E.C. Munson

Blustery and cold outside though it may be, there is a vibrant arts and culture scene to access virtually throughout Halton, Peel, and Dufferin. Peruse the news of various arts groups and organizations, hunt for classes and workshops, relax with online exhibitions, and check out arts news from insider tips with calls to submit to the bigger arts world beyond these local corridors.



(Classes & Workshops)

Most arts organizations have moved to virtual platforms and have something for everybody in the family with these exciting activities and classes.

Art Gallery of Burlington (beta.agb.life/learn/families): Starting Jan. 30, join the AGB for their FREE weekly Family Open Studio, every Saturday at 1 p.m. on IGTV or virtually on Instagram, where you can engage in a new family-friendly art project each week from the comfort of your home.

Can't wait for Jan. 30? Check out one of the many IGTV videos posted on its page for some creative inspiration. For more information, visit www.instagram.com/artgallburl/channel.

Visual Arts Brampton has a Paint Night for Saturday, Feb. 13 – perfect for a date night or friends, or somebody who wants to try a new medium. Other adult classes starting in February include Winter Pastels with Filomena Kandola, Water Colours with Zan Barrage, and so many more ...

Visit www.visualartsbrampton.com/programs/adults for more details.

Burlington Public Library has a plethora of FREE virtual activities and cultural delights to sample. While some require pre-registration, others do not. Family Storytime, Puppet Shows, Opera, Writing Classes, Bookclubs, Art Activities, and more! Check out the BPL website at www.bpl.on.ca/events.

Visual Arts Mississauga: Annis Karpenko, Executive Director at VAM says, "Winter is coming and we are here for YOU. Art making and being with a community of friends is known to reduce stress and anxiety and to combat isolation."

Plan ahead with March Break for children and teens with www.visualartsmississauga.com/programs/?type=child-

There is also much to choose from for the kid in all of us with adult courses at www.visualartsmississauga.com/programs/?type=adult-programs

Museum of Dufferin continues to connect broadly with their resources found at their Learning Hub, which can be seen at www.dufferinmuseum.com/learning-hub/.

Explore those categories under Social Studies, Language Arts, and Games & Activities. It's time to DISCOVER, EDUCATE, and SHARE with the MOD!

Psst! Anybody for a Maple Syrup Crossword with those morning pancakes? Visit www.dufferinmuseum.com for additional details!

(Exhibitions Here & Far...)

Soon to be gone, this is the last week for these shows – see them now at the following links:

Arts On The Credit salutes S'jon de Groot's for his fabulous solo show that has been on their virtual gallery since Jan. 8 at noon through the Zoom platform. His body of work is energizing with his characteristic use of strong colours and decisive brush work.

The work is bold and multi-dimensional, an expression in colour of a South African coming to terms with his adopted land; and combining his African and North American experience with the influence of his Dutch artist ancestors.

AOTC's virtual gallery is easy to access and maneuver within for an enjoyable viewing experience! Visit www.artsonthecredit.ca/gallery for details.

Beaux Arts Gallery announces it's the last week to view and purchase works from their virtual Winter Art Show at www.beauxartsbrampton.org/copy-of-exhibitions-.1.

A gem of a gallery for Brampton, it is a happening arts collective with a heady and glorious mix of emerging, to mid-career, and established artists who range as widely in their arts practices as their ages. From their millennials to those boomers and with much else in-between, Beaux Arts Gallery is the arts scene!



These next shows that will be with us for more than the next week, so you can go back to view them virtually a number of times.

Headwaters Arts Gallery, located in the Alton Mill Arts Centre, presents seven area artists with this eclectic collection of landscapes, florals, still life, and abstract pieces.

Pensive and considered or pent up with energy bursting forth, contemplative, looking forward with hope, or nostalgic tinged views of simpler moments, strong and bold colours, rich vignettes and spare, minimalist panels – all are invitations to share these artists' moods as we move into our new decade.

Hanging virtually for now, you may view and purchase from this exhibition on the Headwaters Arts website at headwatersarts.com/our-current-show through Feb. 28.

Art Gallery of Burlington has three new exhibits to enjoy when galleries reopen. They may be found at beta.agb.life/visit/exhibitions.

An immersive video installation, *Diver*, from Monira Al Qadiri runs from Feb. 1 through May 3; Marina Dempster & Meera Sethi: *In Visible* runs

from Feb. 2 – May 31; and Larry Weyland: *Peeling the Sticker Off an Overripe Pear*, from May 2 – 31, 2021.

Visual Arts Mississauga launched its much anticipated 43rd Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021 with a live Facebook Event.

VAM43 showcases an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary visual art works. While over 150 artists applied to the exhibition province-wide, only 43 artworks were chosen by VAM's expert jurors. This virtual exhibition will be up on the VAM43 website through Dec. 31, 2021.

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(‘Big picture’ news on the arts front...)

Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Canada’s leading contemporary outdoor art fair is celebrating 60 years of launching artists’ careers. Their #CallForArtists opened in Nov. 2020 and closes on Mar. 8. Apply by Feb. 28 at 11:59 p.m. to avoid the late fee.

Visual artists and makers of all backgrounds are invited to apply for the hybrid online/outdoor 60th event @torontooutdoorart in July 2021. Each year, a loyal following of Fair-goers spend \$2 million on art purchases, providing an income to independent artists that contributes to their economic prosperity. The 60th Anniversary Fair will be one to remember with new special programs and awards! Get more info and apply now at www.torontooutdoor.art.

Canberra, in New South Wales, and capitol of Australia: For something “down under”, check out the Canberra Calendar - just released so we can all live in hope, dream, and plan.

Canberra’s autumn events calendar is full of more than festivals. Having said that, it looks like it is going to be “lift off” from Mar. 6 -14 with the Canberra Balloon Spectacular.



Another place to enjoy world-class art, outdoor challenges and, of course, plenty of festivals. Visit hercanberra.com.au/city/film-theatre-music/canberras-2021-autumn-events-calendar for details.

(Happening NOW from local artists & arts organizations ...)

Cathy Disbrow of Woolly Doodles, textile artist and felter, will hold a series Zoom workshops at \$35 each. Visit www.woollydoodles.com/learning for details — kits are extra.

Hurry, only two spots are left for the two part Pet Portrait Needle Felt Painting Class. On two Sundays, from 1 – 4 p.m., learn how to take a photo of your’s pet’s face and then felt it into an 8” x 10” wool



painting. The workshops will be held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7.

ArtTrendZ has two FREE Arts Card Making Demos on their Facebook page. Follow them at www.facebook.com/ArtTrendz-An-Artist-Collective-1720407324932353 and watch for Khaula Mazhur and Thaniath Siddiqui to announce their respective FB Live Events respectively for Thursday and Saturday, this Jan. 28 and 30. This is in preparation for celebrating National Send A Card To A Friend Day on Feb. 7!

Peel Art Gallery & Museum (PAMA) presents a virtual talk from 6 - 8 p.m. on Jan. 28, where co-curator Karen Carter will focus on the paintings & textiles in the exhibition “When Night Stirred at Sea: Contemporary Caribbean Art” currently on view at PAMA. This program is brought to you in partnership with The Black Artists’ Network in Dialogue (BAND) who will be hosting the event on Zoom.

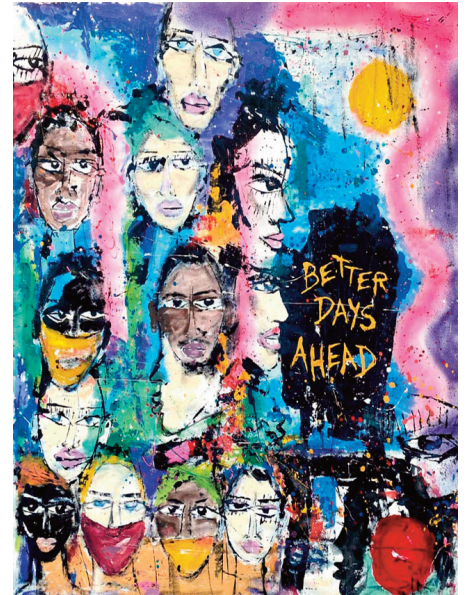
You may reserve your spot now through Eventbrite here and the link to attend will be forwarded to participants directly prior to the event. Visit calendar.pama.peelregion.ca for more details.

Art Gallery of Burlington: You can continue to engage with on-line courses from the AGB and discover your creative-expressive side. Join the FREE Family Resolution Wheel class at beta.agb.life/learn/families/family-open-studio-resolution-wheels this Saturday, Jan. 30 at 1 pm. Then plan ahead for Feb. 6 for the Family Open Studio FREE class, Oil and Water Droplet Paintings. Visit beta.agb.life/learn/families/family-open-studio-oil-and-water-droplet-paintings for details.

Calls to Submit are opportunities for artists and members in communities to put forward their creative work for different exhibitions. The deadlines for celebrating Black History Month are looming with just a few days left to submit your work for these interesting shows.

Museum of Dufferin has no fees to enter and a national call to residents of Canada, open for both professional and amateur creatives. Respond by Monday, Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. to be part of this juried photography and art show with monetary prizes.

The MOD is mounting A Black History Month Digital Exhibition in partnership with the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association. Canadian photographers and artists are encouraged to submit their work to reflect the theme of “Solidarity in my Community.”



I KNOW WHY

CALL FOR BLACK ARTISTS!

SHOW DATES: February 4—28

SUBMIT BY: January 23 @1 PM

Beaux Arts AN ARTIST RUN GALLERY

Find submission guidelines at www.dufferinmuseum.com/bhm/. **Beaux Arts Gallery of Brampton** is also honouring Black History Month with a special exhibition. Submission deadline extended to Jan. 30; for more information, visit www.beauxartsbrampton.org/callforsubmissions. This February Feature Show seeks artworks from Black artists for an exhibition that not only demonstrates (their) committed effort to supporting Black culture and its many contributions to the arts, (but) also serve as a platform meant for the celebration of Black Artists, who undoubtedly deserve a

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The McMichael Art Gallery is sponsoring an Makers Market Online Auction. Canadian artisans, designers, and makers will receive 50 per cent of the proceeds, with the remainder going to support the renowned institution's core mission for educational outreach, exhibitions, and public programming.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. For more information about this opportunity, visit www.mcmichael.com/event/call-for-artisans-designers/.



McMichael Makers' Market Online Auction

Visual Arts Mississauga has a Call to Submit with a deadline of Feb. 15 for their annual Third Chapter: An Exhibition Celebrating Life-long Learning. Featured and hung in the VAM Gallery will be artwork by VAM students and members aged 60+.

Third Chapter will be online from Mar. 1 - 14. Artists aged 60 and up are welcome to submit their works for consideration. Applications available here: Call for Entry – Third Chapter 2021 You can send applications and questions to exhibits@visualartsmississauga.com.



(Newsy bits ...)

Credit Valley Artisans of Georgetown is continuing to build the presence of their artist members on the group's website. Representing four different guilds, there are artists and artisans with fascinating backgrounds working in stained glass, pottery, weaving and spinning, and many types of graphic arts.

Their website is located at www.creditvalleyartisans.ca/.

While their courses are currently on hold, there is much to explore under SHOW and SELL, with various members sharing their experiences and work created during provincial restrictions and a growing number of boutique collections from artists available to purchase.



Visual Arts Mississauga knows that Henri Matisse was correct when he said, "Creativity takes courage."

VAM has two classes starting in February for those life-long learners, emerging, mid-career, or established artists, whose professional development can include workshops, special courses for new techniques, and important exhibitions to view. Anatomy of an Exhibition and Professional Development for Artists, both with Fausta Facciponte, may be accessed at www.visualartsmississauga.com/programs/?type=adult-programs.



**VISUAL ARTS
MISSISSAUGA**
at RIVERWOOD



E. Connie Munson is a local writer, photographer, and artist who covers the arts and cultural scene so others may share the passion and joy of the creatives and makers.

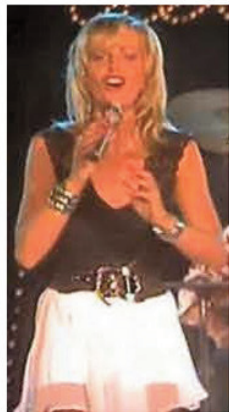
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